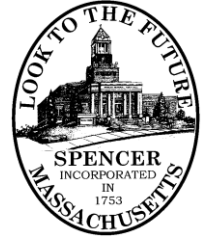


## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: Monday, January 27, 2014  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Social Hall Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA  
Present: Chair Woodbury, Vice Chair Berthiaume, Clerk Stevens, Members Fritze and Pepe and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:08 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Minutes

*A motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting and Executive Session of January 13, 2014 (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.*

### Citizen Input

None

### Communications

Mr. Pepe announced that the Leicester-Spencer Eagles will hold a Valentines Dance at Pine Ridge Country Club.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Berthiaume offered thoughts and prayers to Carl Kwiatkowski, who was hospitalized recently.

### New Business

#### **Discussion: Exchange Club: Veterans' Memorial at Prouty Park**

Gary Herl, representing the Spencer Exchange Club provided an overview of proposed plans for Prouty Park, which include a Veterans Memorial and overall improvements to the existing grounds. The Exchange Club is currently in the process of fundraising and will apply for a grant, and at this time is requesting authorization from the Board to move forward. Mr. Herl presented a drawing of the proposed plan. Improvements include a large amount of site work and the removal of overgrown memorial trees, which will be replaced with ornamental trees. These improvements and the new Veterans Memorial will allow Prouty Park to be enjoyed by all.

*A motion to authorize the Exchange Club to submit a grant application for Prouty Park as discussed (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.*

#### **Discussion: Letter of Support for DCR Recreational Grant Application for Depot Trail**

Ginny Scarlet, Wetlands Specialist, reported that the Conversation Commission

acquired the right of way for Depot Road Trail, which was built and opened to the public in 2006. Poor drainage caused the trail to deteriorate over time resulting in the need for repair and ongoing maintenance. The DCR Recreational Trails Grant provides an opportunity to get this accomplished. Margaret Washburn, Conservation Agent would like the Board to draft a letter of support to DCR. The Board agreed. A grant application will be submitted by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

*A motion to offer a letter of support to DCR for improvements to the Depot Road Trail (Berthiaume/ Pepe) passed 5/0.*

## **Old Business**

### **Discussion: Spencer Rescue Squad (SRS) – Memorandum of Understanding**

Gary Suter was present for the discussion. Administrator Gaudette mentioned that a three year contract was put in place in July of 2013 between the Town of Spencer and SRS, which also involved the Town of Paxton. In October, SRS informed the Board that Paxton opted out of the agreement, resulting in the need for SRS to determine how to reorganize and provide effective service to Spencer while remaining profitable. At that time a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted waiving the requirement for SRS to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) backup and any other provisions involving Paxton, to allow time to research alternative options.

Mr. Suter said SRS has been looking to regionalize, without much success and it is unlikely an agreement will be in place by June 30<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, service continues to be provided to the Town and mutual aid calls are being managed.

Selectmen Stevens asked if the calls have been on target with the goals. Mr. Suter will provide that information in the next report. Administrator Gaudette noted the key issue is with secondary calls. When primary ALS is out on another call and a secondary call comes in, this is where delays will likely occur.

Chairman Woodbury suggested allowing SRS until June, 30<sup>th</sup> to come up with an alternative plan.

Selectmen Berthiaume noted the only change to the original contract is with Paxton providing the primary ALS backup. He suggests amending the contract to indicate this change.

Administrator Gaudette recommended the Board allow SRS until June 30, 2014 to explore ways to fulfill their contract, as documented in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Pepe is in favor, provided there is no impact to the level of service. The Board made it clear that no additional money will be provided.

*A motion to authorize use of the Memorandum of Understanding as drafted by Administrator Gaudette to extend the date for the SRS to June 30, 2014 (Stevens/Fritze) passed 5/0.*

Mr. Suter noted that the SRS received a \$1,000 grant from the Leicester-Spencer Eagles.

### **Discussion: Questions for Legislative Delegation February 24, 2014**

Proposed discussion questions include:

- Vocational school transportation
- Increase in local aid
- EBT Card abuse and waste
- Budget accountability
- Unfunded liabilities
- Road improvements
- Issues with retirement funding

Board members will email specific questions to the Administrator.

### **Town Administrator Report**

#### **FY2015 Budget Development Update**

Mr. Gaudette will meet with CIPC on Tuesday and with FinCom on February 4<sup>th</sup>. At this time, there is an estimated \$1 million budget deficit.

Collective bargaining negotiations with union personnel are in process.

### **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Pepe announced that the Sugden Block Committee will hold a public hearing on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Town Hall.

### **Citizen input**

None

### **Board Member and Staff Comments**

The Board will tour the Spencer Brewery on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶ 3, for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining.**

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

SRS Memorandum of Understanding  
DCR Letter of Support for Depot Trail